# INITIAL STUDY/ DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

# Friends of Oceano Dunes 2008 Poker Run and Safety Day Special Event Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area

May 2008



State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation,
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

#### **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

PROJECT: Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) 2008 Poker Run and Safety Day, sponsored by the Friends of Oceano Dunes (FoOD)

LEAD AGENCY: California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS: The Initial Study for this Negative Declaration is available for review at:

- Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area 340 James Way, Ste. 270
   Pismo Beach, CA 93449 (805) 773-7170
   Contact – Ronnie Glick
- California Department of Parks & Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division 1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 200 Sacramento, CA 95816 (916) 324-4442 Contact – Sarah Cumber

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The FoOD has applied for a special event permit to hold the Poker Run and Safety Day (the project) at ODSVRA during the July 4 holiday. The Project comprises the following activities: July 3-6, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., safety information displays would be erected under a small, temporary, pop-up shade structure in the area of the beach open to camping. July 4-6, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., fundraising raffle ticket sales, Poker Run registration, and off-road riding apparel vending would occur in the same area, under 4-6 small, temporary, pop-up shade structures. July 5, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., the Poker Run would be held.

The pop-up shade structures would be erected in a portion of the camping area, which is already open to vehicle use, within a 150-foot by 150-foot area just north of beach marker post 4. The six Poker Run checkpoints would be located within a large flat portion of the park that is also already open to riding. Each checkpoint would comprise a small card table and a pole with a flag and be staffed by one or two volunteers. The Poker Run is a non-timed, non-race, and self-guided activity during which participants visit the checkpoints where they select playing cards to gain points for poker hands. Participants can also gain points by picking up trash in the riding area. All participants would be paid camping or day use visitors, and all vehicles would be subject to the same sound restrictions and equipment requirements applicable to all SVRA visitors. All speed limit and other safety and resource-protective measures already in effect at the SVRA would apply to event participants. The event sponsor anticipates up to 200 participants, but all pre-existing ODSVRA camping and vehicle limits would remain in effect during the event.

#### **FINDINGS**

The OHMVR Division, having reviewed the Initial Study for the proposed project, finds that:

- 1. The proposed project will allow a four-day special event consisting of fundraising raffle ticket sales, Poker Run registration, off-road riding apparel vending, safety displays, and a non-race, non-timed, self-guided ride (the Poker Run) within the open riding and camping area at ODSVRA.
- 2. All participants will be paid camping or day use visitors; all vehicles will be subject to the same sound restrictions and equipment requirements applicable to all SVRA visitors; all speed limit and other safety and resource-protective measures already in effect at the SVRA will apply to event participants; all pre-existing ODSVRA camping and vehicle limits will remain in effect during the event.
- 3. The project will not exceed significance thresholds for the environmental effects identified in the Initial Study Checklist.
- 4. A Negative Declaration will be filed as the appropriate CEQA document of the Project.

#### **BASIS OF FINDINGS**

Based on the environmental evaluation presented herein, the project will not cause significant adverse effects related to aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, hazards/ hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities/service systems. In addition, substantial adverse effects on humans, either direct or indirect, will not occur. The project does not affect any important examples of the major periods of California prehistory or history. Nor will the project substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. The project does not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

A copy of the Initial Study is attached. Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/ Negative Declaration should be submitted in writing to:

Sarah Cumber – Environmental Scientist California Department of Parks & Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division 1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 200 Sacramento, CA 95816

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, CDPR has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds these documents reflect the independent judgment of CDPR.

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# Chapter 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Introduction and Regulatory Guidance

This section describes the purpose of an Initial Study (IS), the decision process to prepare a Negative Declaration (ND) or a Mitigated ND, background of the project, and a brief description of the Poker Run and Safety Day (the project).

The project comprises erection of 5-7 small, temporary, pop-up shade structures within the open riding and camping area of Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) to accommodate fundraising raffle safety displays, ticket sales, Poker Run registration, and offroad riding apparel vending over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend. The Poker Run itself would occur on July 5 and involves a non-timed, non-race, and self-guided activity during which participants visit six checkpoints (one card table each) within the open riding area.

The State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division is the Lead Agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.). CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR §15000 et seq.) establish the OHMVR Division as the Lead Agency, which is defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15367 as "the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project." The lead agency decides whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or ND is required for the project and is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental review document.

CEQA lists seven purposes of an IS (CEQA Guidelines § 15063(c)):

- 1. Provide the Lead Agency with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an EIR or a ND.
- 2. Enable a Lead Agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is prepared, thereby enabling the project to qualify for a ND.
- 3. Assist in the preparation of an EIR, if one is required.
- 4. Facilitate environmental assessment early in the design of a project.
- 5. Provide documentation of the factual basis for the finding in a ND that a project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 6. Eliminate unnecessary EIRs.
- 7. Determine whether a previously prepared EIR could be used with the project.

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a public agency shall prepare a proposed ND or a Mitigated ND when:

1. The IS shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, or

- 2. The IS identifies potentially significant effects, but:
  - Revisions in the project plans made before a proposed Mitigated ND and IS are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and
  - There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

This IS has been prepared by the OHMVR Division of CDPR in accordance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines.

#### 1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with principal responsibility for carrying out or approving the proposed project (CEQA Guidelines §15367). The lead agency for the proposed project is CDPR, the agency that would be both approving and carrying out the project. The contact person for the lead agency is:

Ronnie Glick – Senior Environmental Scientist ODSVRA 340 James Way, Ste. 270 Pismo Beach, CA 93449 (805) 773-7170

#### 1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the FoOD-sponsored Poker Run and Safety Day proposed to be held at ODSVRA over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.

This document is organized as follows:

Chapter 1 - Introduction

This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

• Chapter 2 – Project Description

This chapter describes the project location, project area, and site description, objectives, characteristics and related projects.

Chapter 3 - Environmental Checklist and Responses

This chapter contains the Environmental (IS) Checklist that identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed project. This chapter also contains the Mandatory Findings of Significance.

• Chapter 4 - References

This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/MND.

Chapter 5 - Report Preparation

This chapter provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

#### 1.4 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The following permits or approvals are required for this project:

CDPR Special Event Permit

# Chapter 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### 2.1 Project Location and Site Description

CDPR proposes to allow the Poker Run and Safety Day, sponsored by FoOD, at ODSVRA in the community of Oceano, San Luis Obispo County, California.

ODSVRA is located in the community of Oceano, off State Route 1 (Figure 1). The SVRA contains 5½ miles of beach open for vehicle use, and the 1,500 acres of sand dunes available for off-highway motor vehicle recreation are attractions for visitors from throughout the United States. ODSVRA is the only California State Park where vehicles may be driven on the beach. Passenger cars can easily drive on the northern portion of the beach while the central portion of the SVRA can be accessed with four-wheel drive vehicles and is where off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and camping are allowed. The southern portion of the park features the Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area, which is closed to vehicles.

#### 2.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project is to allow the FoOD-sponsored Poker Run and Safety Day event to occur over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend at ODSVRA. FoOD has identified the following objectives for the event:

- Create a sense of unity among park visitors.
- Promote beach cleanups.
- Promote responsible recreation and safety.
- Fundraising for FoOD.

#### 2.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

FoOD has applied for a special event permit to hold the Poker Run and Safety Day event at ODSVRA during the July 4th holiday period. The event would comprise the following activities during the following dates and times:

- July 3-6, 9 a.m. 6 p.m. Safety information displays would be erected under one small, temporary, pop-up shade structure in the area of the beach open to camping (Figure 2).
- July 4-6, 9 a.m. 6 p.m. Fundraising raffle ticket sales, Poker Run registration, FoOD fundraising merchandise (e.g., hats, bumper stickers) sales, and off-road riding apparel and accessories (e.g., flags, lights, parts) vending would occur in the same area under and around 4-6 small, temporary, pop-up shade structures (Figure 2).
- July 5, 10 a.m. 4 p.m. The Poker Run would be held within the open riding area in the general vicinity of the Sand Highway (see Figure 2).

The 150-foot by 150-foot vending/registration/staging area would be just north of beach marker post 4 in a portion of the camping area that is already open to vehicle use (Figure 2). The area would be marked by poles, flags, and snow fencing. The six Poker Run checkpoints would all be located within a portion of the park that is also already open to riding. Each checkpoint would comprise a small card table and a pole with a flag and be staffed by one or two volunteers. The card tables will be erected in flat sections of the open riding area for high visibility. The specific location of each card table would be determined during the event weekend, but all the card tables would be erected in the general vicinity of the Sand Highway. The Poker Run is a non-timed, non-race, and self-guided activity during which participants visit the checkpoints where they select playing cards to gain points for poker hands. Participants can also gain points by picking up trash in the riding area. Courtesy ATV sound testing would also be offered.

FoOD would be responsible for picking up all garbage, markers, and event banners within 15 hours following the event. Garbage would be deposited in main dumpsters already maintained at ODSVRA.

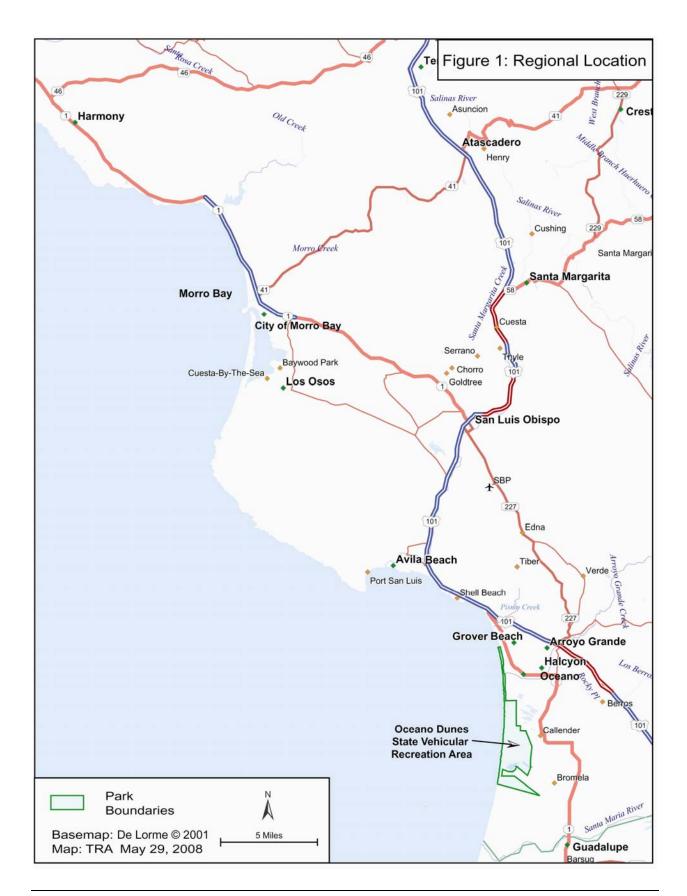
All participants would be paid camping or day use visitors, and all vehicles would be subject to the same sound restrictions and equipment requirements applicable to all SVRA visitors. All speed limit and other safety and resource-protective measures already in effect at the SVRA would apply to event participants. FoOD anticipates up to 200 participants, but all pre-existing ODSVRA camping and vehicle limits would remain in effect during the event. These daily limits (up to 2,580 street-legal vehicles, 1,000 street-legal vehicles for camping, and 1,720 OHVs) have been previously established under an approved 2001 Coastal Development Permit Amendment (CDP 4-82-300-A5). The event would not increase the number of visitors expected to enter the park over the holiday weekend as ODSVRA already operates at this permitted capacity during the July 4th holiday.

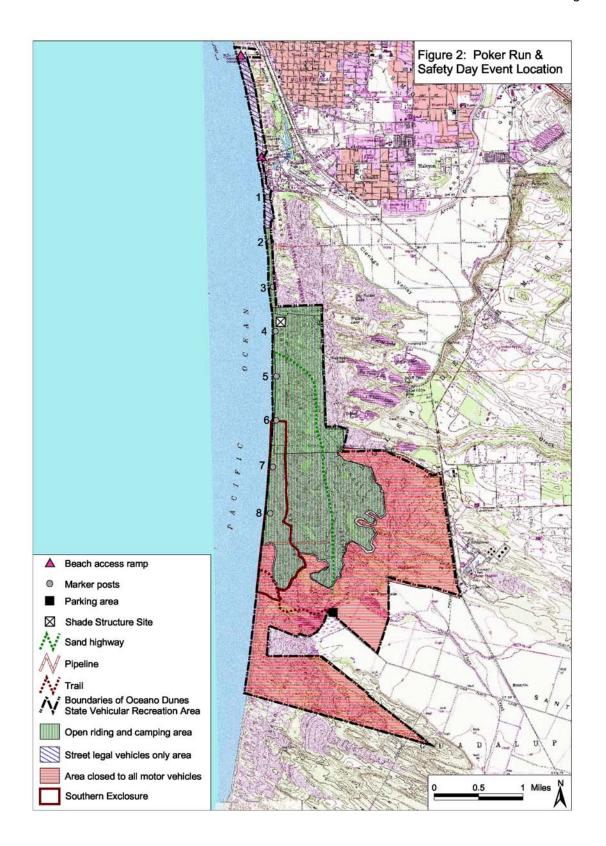
#### 2.4 SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT CONDITIONS

CDPR has developed a standard set of special event permit terms and conditions for special events. CDPR has determined that additional conditions specific to the event are not required. The standard terms and conditions are included here as Appendix A. No other permits or approvals are required for the project.

#### 2.5 NESTING SEASON MANAGEMENT PLAN TO AVOID TAKE OF LEAST TERNS AND SNOWY PLOVERS

Two avian species listed under the state and or federal Endangered Species Act occur at ODSVRA. The federally-listed western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*; threatened) and state- and federally-listed California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*; endangered) both breed at ODSVRA. CDPR is in the process of developing a multi-park Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to permit incidental take of both species. Pending permit issuance, ODSVRA has developed and implements an extensive array of protection, monitoring, and management measures to avoid take of and support successful breeding by both species. These protocols are revisited each year, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and fully implemented by ODSVRA. The complete set of management measures developed for the 2008 breeding season and currently in effect at ODSVRA are provided in Appendix B.





# Chapter 3 Environmental Checklist and Responses

	PROJECT INFORMATION						
1.	Project Title: ODSVRA 2008 Poker Run and Safety Day, sponsored by FoOD						
2.	Lead Agency Name & Address: CDPR, OHMVR Division 1725 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 200 Sacramento, CA 95816						
3.	Contact Person & Phone Numl	ber:	Ronnie Glick, (805) 773-7	170			
4.	Project Location: Oceano Dun	es S	tate Vehicular Recreation A	Area, (	Oceano, CA		
5.	5. <b>Project Sponsor Name &amp; Address:</b> Friends of Oceano Dunes 855 E. Peralta Fresno, CA 937046						
6. (	General Plan Designation: Par	k					
7.	Zoning: Recreation						
8.	. Description of Project: See Chapter 2 Project Description						
9.	Surrounding Land Uses & Sett	ing:	Refer to Section IX, Land	Use a	and Planning		
	Approval Required from Other Public Agencies: Special Event Permit from CDPR; no other agency approval required						
EN\	/IRONMENTAL FACTORS POT	ENT	IALLY AFFECTED:				
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. Note that "None" is checked, as protocols already in place at ODSVRA avoid significant impacts to all factors.							
	Aesthetics		Agricultural Resources		Air Quality		
	Biological Resources		Cultural Resources		Geology/Soils		
	Hazards & Hazardous Materials		Hydrology/Water Quality		Land Use/Planning		
	Mineral Resources		Noise		Population/Housing		
	Public Services		Recreation		Transportation/Traffic		
	Utilities/Service Systems		Mandatory Findings of Significance	$\boxtimes$	None		

DETERMINATION:	
On the basis of this initial evaluation:	
I find that the proposed project <b>COULD NOT</b> have a significant effect on the environment and a <b>NEGATIVE DECLARATION</b> will be prepared.	$\boxtimes$
I find that, although the original scope of the proposed project <b>COULD</b> have had a significant effect on the environment, there <b>WILL NOT</b> be a significant effect because revisions/mitigations to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A <b>MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL</b> be prepared.	
I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or its functional equivalent will be prepared.	
I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated impact" on the environment. However, at least one impact has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described in the report's attachments. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the impacts not sufficiently addressed in previous documents.	
I find that, although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, pursuant to applicable standards, and have been avoided or mitigated, pursuant to an earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, all impacts have been avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level and no further action is required.	
Rick LeFlore, CDPR Superintendent IV (RA)	
Date	

#### **EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

- 1. A brief explanation is required for all answers, except "No Impact", that are adequately supported by the information sources cited. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact does not apply to the project being evaluated (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on general or project-specific factors (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- All answers must consider the whole of the project-related effects, both direct and indirect, including

off-site, cumulative, construction, and operational impacts.

- 3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether that impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate when there is sufficient evidence that a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change may occur in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project that cannot be mitigated below a level of significance. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.
- 4. A "Mitigated Negative Declaration" (Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated) applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures, prior to declaration of project approval, has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less-Than-Significant Impact with Mitigation." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level.
- 5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR (including a General Plan) or Negative Declaration [CCR, Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, § 15063(c)(3)(D)]. References to an earlier analysis should:
  - a) Identify the earlier analysis and state where it is available for review.
  - b) Indicate which effects from the environmental checklist were adequately analyzed in the earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and whether these effects were adequately addressed by mitigation measures included in that analysis.
  - c) Describe the mitigation measures in this document that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and indicate to what extent they address site-specific conditions for this project.
- 6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate references to information sources for potential impacts into the checklist or appendix (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances, biological assessments). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should include an indication of the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7. A source list should be appended to this document. Sources used or individuals contacted should be listed in the source list and cited in the discussion.
- 8. Explanation(s) of each issue should identify:
  - a) the criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate the significance of the impact addressed by each question **and**
  - b) the mitigation measures, if any, prescribed to reduce the impact below the level of significance.

3.1 AESTHETICS					
WOULD THE PROJECT:		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Have a substantial a	adverse effect on a scenic vist	:a? 🗌			$\boxtimes$
but not limited to, tre	ge scenic resources, including ees, rock outcroppings, and thin a state scenic highway?	, 🗆			
,	de the existing visual characte and its surroundings?	er 🗌			$\boxtimes$
	e of substantial light or glare ely affect day or nighttime viev	ws			

Will the proposed project:

- a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?
- b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
- c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?
- d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

**No Impact**. (Responses a – d) The proposed special event would take place within an area that has been subject to ongoing car and OHV activities, including large gatherings of vehicles, since the 1900s. This event would not result in additional street legal and off highway vehicles within the SVRA since it draws participants from amongst visitors who are already camping as part of the holiday period camping and day use population. The event would not result in new trails or roads; all activities will take place in the Open Riding area. Only a small number of portable shade structures, display tables, and card tables would be erected over the holiday weekend, and these items would be removed upon the conclusion of the event. The staging area is within a part of the park that typically has recreational vehicles and similar shade structures, especially during a holiday. The event site does not contain scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within view of a state scenic highway. None of the state highways located in the area (SR 1 and US 101) have State Scenic Highway Status

(http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic highways/index.htm). SR 1 becomes a State Scenic Highway north of the city of San Luis Obispo, about 14 miles north of the project site. The project site is not visible from the State Scenic designated portion of SR 1. Night riding is currently allowed at ODSVRA, but the event would not be ongoing during night hours. There will be no new sources of substantial light or glare as a result of this project. Since no new trails, roads, or any other type of development would occur, and the activities proposed are already occurring or

entirely consistent with activities already occurring within the event area, no scenic vistas would be adversely affected.

#### 3.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES **LESS THAN** POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT LESS THAN <u>SIGNIFICANT</u> WITH **SIGNIFICANT IMPACT** <u>MITIGATION</u> **IMPACT IMPACT** WOULD THE PROJECT\*: a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or П П $\boxtimes$ Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or П П $\boxtimes$ a Williamson Act contract? П П $\bowtie$ c) Involve other changes in the existing environment П which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use? \* In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model for use in assessing impacts on agricultural and farmland.

#### Will the proposed project:

- a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
- b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?
- c. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?

**No Impact.** (Responses a-c) The project area is located within an SVRA. No farmland exists on the event site, and adjacent farmland would not be affected. The project site is zoned as park land in the San Luis Obispo County General Plan. The proposed project would not remove any acreage from agricultural production. The project would have no impact on prime farmland or other agricultural resources in the project vicinity. The project does not affect any land that has been zoned for agricultural use or is currently in Williamson Act contracts. The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment which could result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.

3.3	AIR QUALITY				
		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT
Wou	ILD THE PROJECT*:				
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan or regulation?				
b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air qualit violation?	у			
c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increased of any criteria pollutant for which the project regins in non-attainment under an applicable federal state ambient air quality standard (including relemissions which exceed quantitative thresholds ozone precursors)?	on or asing			
d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial polluta concentrations (e.g., children, the elderly, individually with compromised respiratory or immune system	luals			
e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantianumber of people?	al 🗌			
	here available, the significance criteria established by the strict may be relied on to make these determinations.	he applicable air	quality manageme	ent or air pollutior	control

#### Will the proposed project:

- a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
- b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?
- c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?
- d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

**No Impact.** (Responses a – d) The project is located on the San Luis Obispo County coast near the community of Oceano. The County of San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District (APCD) is the air quality regulatory agency for the project area. Pollution from mobile sources, such as cars, trucks, trains and marine vessels, fall outside of the Air District's jurisdiction and are regulated by state and federal agencies that establish the air pollution emission standards for vehicles and the fuel they run on. State standards for ozone and fine particulate matter ( $PM_{10}$ ) are currently exceeded in San Luis Obispo County. As a result, the state Air Resources Board has designated the county a nonattainment area for these pollutants. The California Clean Air Act requires the development of plans to achieve and maintain the state ozone standard by the earliest practicable date.

This event will not result in an additional number of vehicles, day users, campers, or OHVs at the beach beyond the established day use and camper limits. The participants are part of the sold out camping visitation that occurs each July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday period. Therefore, the project does not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the San Luis Obispo County Clean Air Plan, nor does it contribute to an air quality violation. The event does not involve new land uses and would not contribute to urban growth or introduce new sources of air emissions into the air basin, nor would it affect sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

#### e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

**No Impact.** The activities associated with the event would not result in the creation of objectionable odors.

# 3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Wo	ULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly o through habitat modification, on any species identified as a sensitive, candidate, or special state species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Servi	us			
b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identifin local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, oby the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	or			
c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by §404 of the Cleawater Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	□ an			
d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservat Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	ion			

#### Will the proposed project:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

**No Impact.** ODSVRA contains known nesting habitat for the western snowy plover, a federally-listed threatened species, and the California least tern, a federally- and state-listed endangered species. The least tern is also fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code. The event area is not designated by the USFWS as critical habitat for the western snowy plover or California least tern. Both of these birds nest in dune environments, and the event would occur during the breeding season for both species.

Appendix B contains the complete protection, monitoring, and management measures currently being implemented at ODSVRA for snowy plovers and least terns. Those measures include

establishing a 250-acre fenced area at the southern portion of the riding and camping area that is closed to all park visitors (the Southern Exclosure; see Figure 2). The great majority of plover and tern nesting at ODSVRA occurs within the Southern Exclosure. Very few nesting attempts occur within the area open to riding. Monitors erect additional exclosures as needed around nests observed within the riding area consistent with current protocols (see Appendix B). An additional approximately 62-acrea area is fenced within the Oso Flaco Natural Area. The exclosures protect breeding plovers and terns not only from park visitors, but also from terrestrial predators.

Over the past 6 years ODSVRA has averaged 1.32 fledged snowy plover chicks per adult breeding male, well above the USFWS recovery criterion of one fledged chick per adult breeding male. The 2007 snowy plover chick fledge rate at ODSVRA was 33%, with 99 nests, and a 77% hatch rate. This hatch rate far exceeds adjacent monitored plover nesting sites. The 2008 annual survey of breeding snowy plovers, just completed in May 2008, recorded a record number of breeding snowy plovers within the ODSVRA riding area (R. Glick, pers. comm.). Likewise, the 2007 California least tern nesting success at ODSVRA was among the best in the state, far exceeding any regional site in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, with 66 nests, a 77% hatch rate, and a 78% fledge rate.

The event staging area would be approximately 0.5 miles from the nearest western snowy plover or California least tern nest. The Poker Run course ranges from 0.5 miles to approximately 2 miles from the nearest western snowy plover nest or California least tern nest. As noted above, the established western snowy plover and California least tern nesting area consists of approximately 300 acres of fully protected habitat closed to all public use at the south end of the riding and camping area of the park, well away from any of the event activity. The protocols described in Appendix B are already in place for the western snowy plover and California least tern nesting season to avoid "take" of either species. The protocols are drafted each year in cooperation with the USFWS and CDFG. The event does not include any race or timed riding component. The Poker Run is a low speed, no impact event. Speed limit violations are strictly enforced within the park. As the event would not draw additional visitors to the park, and all management protocols to avoid adverse impacts to plovers and terns would apply to the event participants, no impacts would occur to plovers and terns due to the proposed special event.

The California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) is another federally-listed threatened species known to occur at ODSVRA. This species is restricted to the fresh water aquatic environment around Oso Flaco Lake and would not be present in the areas of the special event. Brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) also occur offshore and on the beach of ODSVRA. The event does not include any race or timed riding component. The Poker Run is a low speed, no impact event, would not bring additional users to the park, and thus would not be expected to affect brown pelicans. Tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*; South-Central California Coast ESU) both occur within Arroyo Grande Creek, which must be crossed to reach the open riding and camping area, including the event site. Existing protocols are already in effect to protect the sensitive aquatic habitat of Arroyo Grande Creek and the lagoon from adverse impacts during vehicular crossings. As the event would not generate additional crossings of Arroyo Grande Creek, no impact to tidewater goby or steelhead would occur due to the proposed project.

ODSVRA also supports several special-status plant species, including the state and/or federally-listed species shown in Table 1. These plants have been accurately mapped by California State Parks and are protected from OHV disturbance and other recreational uses. Most of these species

are located in the back dunes and near Oso Flaco Lake. None of the plant populations are in close proximity to the special event area and none would be affected by the project.

Table 1. Listed plants species known to occur within ODSVRA					
Species	Common Name	General Habitat	Listing Status		
Arenaria paludicola	Marsh sandwort	marsh and swamp	FE, SE		
Cirsium loncholepis	La Graciosa Thistle	coastal dunes; marsh and swamp; riparian scrub	FE, ST		
Cirsium rhothophilum	Surf thistle	coastal dunes	ST		
Dithyrea maritima	Beach Spectacle Pod	Coastal dunes	ST		
Lupinus nipomoensis	Nipomo Mesa Iupine	coastal dunes	FE, SE		
Roripa gambelii	Gambel's water cress	marsh and swamp	FE, ST		

- b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?
- c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

**No Impact.** (Responses b – c) As discussed above, Arroyo Grande Creek must be crossed to reach the open riding and camping area, including the event site. Existing protocols are already in effect to protect the sensitive aquatic habitat of Arroyo Grande Creek and the lagoon from adverse impacts during vehicular crossings. Vehicle entry into the lagoon is prohibited. As the event would not generate additional crossings of Arroyo Grande Creek, no impact to riparian or other aquatic habitat would occur due to the proposed event. The portion of the dunes within which the Poker Run would be held are already open to riding, and the event would not change the amount or nature of the use within that area. Sensitive dune vegetation is fenced off from vehicular entry. No impact to sensitive dune habitat would occur. Implementation of the project would not result in the removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other disturbances to wetlands as no wetlands occur at the project site.

d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

**No Impact.** See response to a) above.

e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. No heritage trees or any trees are in the event area, and none would be impacted,

f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

**No Impact**. CDPR is currently developing an HCP that includes ODSVRA, but the project would be consistent with activities anticipated by the HCP.

#### 3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES **LESS THAN** SIGNIFICANT POTENTIALLY LESS THAN <u>SIGNIFICANT</u> **WITH SIGNIFICANT** NO **IMPACT MITIGATION IMPACT IMPACT** WOULD THE PROJECT: a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the П П M significance of a historical resource, as defined in §15064.5? $\boxtimes$ b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, pursuant to §15064.5? $\boxtimes$ c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological П П resource or site or unique geologic feature? $\boxtimes$ d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred П outside of formal cemeteries?

### Will the proposed project:

- a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?
- b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?
- c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?
- d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

**No Impact.** (Responses a-d). No known historic, archaeological, or unique paleontological sites or human remains are known from the event area. The Poker Run participants would not effect any change in amount or intensity of use of the open riding area. Erection of card tables for the day and a small number of temporary, pop-up shade structures over the weekend would not disturb the ground and affect any undocumented cultural resources.

#### 3.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS **LESS THAN** SIGNIFICANT POTENTIALLY LESS THAN <u>SIGNIFICANT</u> WITH **SIGNIFICANT** NO **IMPACT MITIGATION IMPACT IMPACT** WOULD THE PROJECT: a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: $\Box$ $\boxtimes$ Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alguist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.) ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? iv) Landslides? b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? $\boxtimes$ c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable, as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse? П $\boxtimes$ d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in П П Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property? П П $\boxtimes$ e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems, where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? Will the proposed project: a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: 1. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? 2. Strong seismic ground shaking? 3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? 4. Landslides?

**No Impact.** Although ODSVRA is located in a seismically active area associated with the San Andreas fault system, the proposed special event would not expose people or structures to seismic or landslide hazards. No new buildings or permanent facilities are proposed; card tables and popup shade structures would not pose a hazard to park visitors during a seismic event. San Luis Obispo County hazard maps show the project area to have a low potential for landslides. Dunes are by their nature unstable and subject to movement, slippage, and blow out. Vehicular activity on active dunes can contribute to unstable soil condition. However, the area proposed for the poker ride is currently open to vehicular activity as part of the SVRA. No additional landslide risk would result from the operation of this event.

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

**No Impact.** The event activities would occur in sand, a highly erosive material, but typical of the area because of the beach location. The poker run is a non-timed, non-race event, and the area proposed for the poker ride is currently open to vehicular activity as part of the SVRA. No additional erosion would result from this event. All event activities would be located on the sandy beach and dunes; therefore, there would be no loss of topsoil.

c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

**No Impact.** See responses to a) and b) above.

d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

**No Impact.** Expansive soils are not a consideration in the sandy soils found in the project area.

e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

**No Impact.** The project does not propose installation of new septic tanks nor does the project create the need for a system for disposal of additional wastewater.

#### 3.7 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS **LESS THAN** LESS THAN POTENTIALLY **SIGNIFICANT SIGNIFICANT WITH SIGNIFICANT** NO <u>MITIGATIO</u>N **IMPACT IMPACT IMPACT** WOULD THE PROJECT: П П П $\boxtimes$ a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? П П $\boxtimes$ b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the П environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, substances, or waste into the environment? $\Box$ $\boxtimes$ c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or П acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? $\boxtimes$ П П d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or environment? e) Be located within an airport land use plan or, where П $\boxtimes$ such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? $\boxtimes$ f) Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, П П П would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with П П $\boxtimes$ 11 an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? M h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires, including areas where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

#### Will the proposed project:

- a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
- b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or hazardous waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

**No Impact.** Gasoline and diesel to power vehicles and generators would be the only hazardous materials in use on the event site, but the event would not increase the number of park visitors or the amount of fuel used over the holiday weekend. The project would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of other types of hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead, toxic waste, etc. The project would not involve hazardous emissions. The nearest school is over one mile from the event site.

d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

**No Impact.** No hazardous material site is known to occur on or in the vicinity of the project site. The project site is not on the Department of Toxic Substance Control's Hazardous Waste and Substance Site List (Cortese List).

- e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?
- f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

**No Impact.** (Responses e – f) The airport closest to the project site is the Oceano County airport located in Oceano. This airport is a general aviation airport and has an adopted Airport Land Use Plan (2007). The airport is located less than a quarter-mile east of the northern portion of Oceano Dunes SVRA, just northeast of post 1. The event site is located over one mile south of the airport (near post 4) and is not located within the Oceano County airport land use plan area (Airport Land Use Commission 2007). The airport would pose a safety hazard to special event participants. There are no private air strips within two miles of the project site.

g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

**No Impact.** The proposed special event would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

g. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wild land fires, including where wild lands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wild lands?

**No Impact.** The project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk or loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. The project is not within the urban/wildland interface. The ODSVRA has adequate fire fighting capabilities in the event of small fires within the park, and for larger fires, the area will be subject to existing ODSVRA emergency response plans.

 $\boxtimes$ 

#### 3.8 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY **LESS THAN** POTENTIALLY **SIGNIFICANT** LESS THAN **SIGNIFICANT** WITH **SIGNIFICANT** NO **IMPACT MITIGATION IMPACT IMPACT** WOULD THE PROJECT: a) Violate any water quality standards or waste П П 冈 discharge requirements? M П b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? П П $\boxtimes$ c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of 11 the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation? M П d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding? П $\boxtimes$ e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed П the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? f) Substantially degrade water quality? $\square$ $\square$ g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map? $\boxtimes$ h) Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year flood hazard area? П $\boxtimes$ Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from flooding, including flooding resulting from the failure of a levee or dam?

Will the proposed project:

Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

#### a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

**No Impact.** The project would not create the need for additional wastewater discharge and would not cause any discharge with the potential to violate water quality standards. As discussed

previously, although vehicles must cross Arroyo Grande Creek to reach the event site, the event would not generate additional vehicles within the park or additional creek crossings as the park would already be filled to capacity over the holiday. The project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

**No Impact.** The project would not extract groundwater and therefore would not affect the quantity of subsurface water supplies. The project would not change the direction or rate of groundwater flow. The project does not involve the use of groundwater supplies and therefore does not impact the groundwater table or nearby wells.

- c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?
- d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?
- e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

**No Impact.** (Responses c – e) The existing drainage pattern of the area would not be altered. The project would not alter the course of a stream or river. As discussed previously, although vehicles must cross Arroyo Grande Creek to reach the event site, the event would not generate additional vehicles within the park or additional creek crossings. Additionally, creek crossings occur within a portion of Arroyo Grande Creek that is subject to change due to tides and stream flow. The course of Arroyo Grande Creek would not be affected by the event. There will be no increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff, because no new impermeable surfaces would be developed for the event. The event would not create additional sources of polluted runoff.

e. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

**No Impact.** The small event would not affect water quality as it would not change the intensity or amount of use of ODSVRA over the holiday.

f. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

- h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?
- i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

**No Impact.** (Responses f - i) According to the San Luis Obispo County Flood Hazard Map, the project site is located within a flood hazard area or a 100-year floodplain, but the project does not involve construction of residential or other structures and would not bring additional visitors into the park.

j. Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

**No Impact.** The project is located in an area that could be subject to inundation by tsunamis; however, the event is of very short duration, does not bring additional visitors into the park, and a tsunami emergency response plan is in effect for the County.

3.9	LAND USE AND PLANNING				
Wol	JLD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a)	Physically divide an established community?				$\boxtimes$
b)	Conflict with the applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zonio ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	ng			
c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				

Will the proposed project:

a. Physically divide an established community?

**No Impact.** There is no established community within the project area.

b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Less Than significant Impact. No significant impacts would occur from the project as it would not change the number of visitors or nature of use within the park. OHV use is a legal use allowed by the park's General Development Plan and San Luis Obispo County's Local Coastal Plan (LCP). Some of the poker run activities would occur within a portion of ODSVRA currently owned by the County (commonly referred to as the La Grande Tract). The County's LCP does include a map (commonly referred to as Figure 4) showing the County lands as buffer area closed to OHV. When the Coastal Commission certified the County's LCP in 1984, the LCP reflected in general the conditions of ODSVRA's Coastal Development Permit 4-82-300, which allows for OHV use on the County-owned land. ODSVRA operates the County-owned land for OHV use consistent with the park's SVRA designation and in conformance with an operating agreement with the County. The special event proposed within the County-owned portion of ODSVRA would not represent a change in use of the area and would not cause a significant conflict with the LCP.

c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

**No Impact.** The project site is not located in an area covered by an HCP or natural community conservation plan. A habitat conservation plan is being developed for certain State Park units within San Luis Obispo County, including ODSVRA; however, it has not yet been finalized.

#### 3.10 MINERAL RESOURCES LESS THAN POTENTIALLY **SIGNIFICANT** LESS THAN **SIGNIFICANT SIGNIFICANT** WITH NO **MITIGATION IMPACT IMPACT IMPACT** WOULD THE PROJECT: П П П $\boxtimes$ a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that is or would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? П X b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally П П important mineral resource recovery site

#### Will the proposed project:

or other land use plan?

delineated on a local general plan, specific plan,

- a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?
- b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

**No Impact.** (Responses a – b) No locally important mineral resources are designated at this site in the San Luis Obispo County General Plan. The proposed special event would not affect any known mineral resources of regional or local importance.

#### **3.11 Noise**

Vol	JLD THE PROJECT:	POTENT SIGNIFIC IMPAC	CANT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a)	Generate or expose people to noise levels in exc of standards established in a local general plan o noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state or federal standards?	r				
b)	Generate or expose people to excessive groundby vibrations or groundborne noise levels?	orne [				
c)	Create a substantial permanent increase in ambienoise levels in the vicinity of the project (above levels without the project)?	ent [				
d)	Create a substantial temporary or periodic increa in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of noise levels existing without the project?					
e)	Be located within an airport land use plan or, whe such a plan has not been adopted, within two mile of a public airport or public use airport? If so, would the project expose people residing or work in the project area to excessive noise levels?	es				
f)	Be in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	I the				

Will the proposed project:

a. Expose persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

**No Impact.** This event would not result in additional street legal and off highway vehicles within the SVRA. The poker run is an activity that draws participants from amongst visitors who are already camping as part of the holiday period camping and day use population. The poker run is not a race. Event volunteers staff a voluntary sound level testing station at the staging area to encourage park visitors to have their ATVs and motorcycles sound tested for compliance with sound level requirements.

b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?

**No Impact.** The proposed event would not generate or expose people to excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels. Groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels are typically caused by blasting or pile driving. No blasting, pile driving, or similar activities would be required to erect card tables and pop-up shade structures.

- c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?
- d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

**No Impact.** (Responses c - d) See response a).

e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

**No Impact.** The nearest airport to the project site is the Oceano County Airport, located over one mile north of the event. The project would not expose people to excessive noise levels associated with the Oceano County Airport.

f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

**No Impact.** The proposed project is not within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

 $\boxtimes$ 

 $\boxtimes$ 

#### 3.12 POPULATION AND HOUSING LESS THAN POTENTIALLY LESS THAN **SIGNIFICANT** SIGNIFICANT **SIGNIFICANT** WITH NO **MITIGATION IMPACT IMPACT IMPACT** WOULD THE PROJECT: П П П $\bowtie$ a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Will the proposed project:

housing elsewhere?

 b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of

c) Displace substantial numbers of people,

necessitating the construction of replacement

replacement housing elsewhere?

a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

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**No Impact.** The project would not induce population growth in the community of Oceano or its environs. The project is a temporary event within an SVRA and no permanent population or housing would be generated as a result of the project. The project would not add any new permanent residents to the area.

- b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?
- c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

**No Impact.** The project will not affect existing housing at the SVRA, as there is none at the event site.

#### 3.13 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT
a) Result in significant environmental impacts from construction associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?				$\boxtimes$
Police protection?				$\boxtimes$
Schools?				$\boxtimes$
Parks?				$\boxtimes$
Other public facilities?				$\boxtimes$

#### DISCUSSION:

Will the proposed project:

- a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:
  - 1. Fire protection?
  - 2. Police protection?
  - 3. Schools?
  - 4. Parks?
  - 5. Other public facilities?

**No Impact.** CDPR provides primary emergency response services within the SVRA. The event would not increase the need for fire or police protection services or create an adverse impact on such services as it would not increase the overall number of park visitors over the holiday or alter the use of the SVRA. The project would not result in increased number of students served by local schools or affect parks, as it is a special event in a SVRA and would not bring in new residents. No new public facilities would be required to accommodate the event or event visitors.

3.14 RECREATION				
WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
<ul> <li>a) Increase the use of existing neighbored regional parks or other recreational functions that substantial physical determinants of the facility would occur or be accelerated.</li> </ul>	acilities, oration of			
b) Include recreational facilities or requ construction or expansion of recreat facilities that might have an adverse effect on the environment?	onal			

#### DISCUSSION:

Will the proposed project:

a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

**No Impact.** The project would not increase the visitor use of ODSRVA or nearby community parks in Oceano or generate demand for recreational facilities. The project would not alter existing recreational opportunities or affect access to existing recreation areas, as it is a special event in a SVRA.

b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

**No Impact.** The project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The erection of card tables with flags, pop-up shades structures, and related items during the temporary event within the riding area would have no effect on the environment.

#### 3.15 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC **LESS THAN** POTENTIALLY **SIGNIFICANT** LESS THAN **SIGNIFICANT** WITH **SIGNIFICANT** NO **IMPACT MITIGATION IMPACT IMPACT** WOULD THE PROJECT: a) Cause a substantial increase in traffic, in relation П П П $\boxtimes$ to existing traffic and the capacity of the street system (i.e., a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? П X b) Exceed, individually or cumulatively, the level of service standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? $\boxtimes$ c) Cause a change in air traffic patterns, including П either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks? П П $\boxtimes$ d) Contain a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or a dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) that would substantially increase hazards? e) Result in inadequate emergency access? $\boxtimes$ П f) Result in inadequate parking capacity? X X g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Will the proposed project:

- a. Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?
- b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

**No Impact.** (Responses a – b) ODSVRA is subject to strict visitor quotas, including 1,000 camping units (a camping unit is defined as one street legal motorized vehicle registered for overnight use) per day and 2,580 street legal and 1,720 OHVs per day for day-use. The overall vehicle limit for day-use is thus limited to 4,300 vehicles (of this 60 percent street legal and 40 percent non-street legal). These visitor quotas would remain in effect during the event, and ODSVRA would be filled to this quota capacity over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday regardless of the event. Although the FoOD estimates up to 200 people will participate in the event, these participants would not represent

additional visitors to the park above what would normally occur over the holiday without the event. Event participants thus would not create additional back ups at entrance stations.

c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

**No Impact.** The proposed special event will not affect air traffic patterns.

d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

**No Impact.** The proposed special event is consistent with activities within an SVRA. The event sponsors would erect the checkpoints in open areas and erect flags for extra visibility. The speed limits in effect at ODSVRA would apply to the event participants. The poker run is not a race or other timed event and would not create any traffic hazards.

e. Result in inadequate emergency access?

**No Impact.** The proposed special event will not affect emergency access. All entrances are required to allow emergency vehicles access at any time.

f. Result in inadequate parking capacity?

**No Impact.** The proposed special event will not affect parking capacity. See response a) regarding vehicle limits and visitation.

g. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

**No Impact.** The proposed special event will not conflict with adopted alternative transportation policies. The event would not prevent pedestrians or equestrians from accessing ODSVRA.

#### 3.16 Utilities and Service Systems **LESS THAN** POTENTIALLY **SIGNIFICANT** LESS THAN **SIGNIFICANT WITH** SIGNIFICANT NO **IMPACT MITIGATION IMPACT IMPACT** WOULD THE PROJECT: a) Exceed wastewater treatment restrictions or П П П $\boxtimes$ standards of the applicable Regional Water **Quality Control Board?** П П П $\boxtimes$ b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities? $\boxtimes$ Would the construction of these facilities cause П significant environmental effects? $\boxtimes$ c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities? Would the construction of these facilities cause П $\boxtimes$ significant environmental effects? d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve П M the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed? П П $\bowtie$ e) Result in a determination, by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project, that it has adequate capacity to service the project's anticipated demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments? $\boxtimes$ П П f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and $\square$

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Will the proposed project:

regulations as they relate to solid waste?

- a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?
- b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

- d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?
- e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

**No Impact.** (Responses a – e) No water uses are proposed that would result in exceedance of waste water treatment requirements. Existing CXTs (vault toilet facilities) would adequately serve the event, which would not bring additional visitors into the park. The project would not require construction of new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities. This project is a special event taking place at the beach and in the dunes and would not affect storm water drainage or facilities. No new water supplies or entitlements would be needed; there would be no expansion of existing water use associated with this project.

- f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?
- g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

**No Impact.** (Responses f - g) The project is a special event and does not result in new housing or businesses that would require permanent year-round garbage collection. FoOD would be responsible for picking up all garbage, markers, and event banners within 15 hours following the event. Garbage would be deposited in main dumpsters already maintained at ODSVRA and could readily be accommodated by the dumpster capacity provided over a busy holiday weekend. ODSVRA manages trash collection in compliance with all federal, state, and local statutes.

3.17	Mandatory Findings of Significance				
Woul	LD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a)	Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substar reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, of a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plator animal community, substantially reduce the ror restrict the range of a rare or endangered plator animal or eliminate important examples of the periods of California history?	ause ant number ant			
b)	Have possible environmental effects that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremeffects of past projects, the effects of other curre projects, and the effects of probably future projects as defined in Section 15130.	ental ent			
d)	Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				

#### DISCUSSION:

Will the proposed project:

a. Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

**No Impact.** As discussed above, all participants would be paid camping or day use visitors; all vehicles would be subject to the same sound restrictions and equipment requirements applicable to all SVRA visitors; all speed limit and other safety and resource-protective measures already in effect at the SVRA will apply to event participants; and all pre-existing ODSVRA camping and vehicle limits would remain in effect during the event. The proposed project would thus not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, significantly impact fish or wildlife species or their habitat, adversely affect plant or animal communities, or affect historic or other cultural resources.

b. Have possible environmental effects that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects as defined in Section 15130)?

**No Impact.** The project would not have environmental effects that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The proposed event would be very short-term in duration and would not change usage at the SVRA.

c. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

**No Impact**. The project would not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly.

# Chapter 4 References

- Airport Land Use Commission. 2007. Airport Land Use Plan for the Oceano County Airport. Adopted February 1976. Amended May 2007.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation. 2008. Project Evaluation Form for the Friends of Oceano Dunes Poker Run and Safety Day.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation. 2007. Nesting of the California Least Tern and Snowy Plover at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, San Luis Obispo County, California, 2007 Season, Oceano Dunes District, CDPR, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation. 2006. Management Measures to Avoid Take of Steelhead in Arroyo Grande Creek, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, San Luis Obispo County.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation. 2001. Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan, Oceano Dunes District, CDPR, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation. 1975. Pismo State Beach and Pismo Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area General Development Plan and Resource Management Plan. April.
- Coastal Development Permit 4-82-300-A5, issued May 2001.
- San Luis Obispo County. 2008. Department of Planning and Building Map Image Website. http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/zoning.htm.
- San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District. 2003. CEQA Handbook.
- San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District. 2001. Clean Air Plan.
- San Luis Obispo County Airport Land Use Commission. 1976. Airport Land Use Plan: Oceano County Airport.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007. 2007 summer range-wide snowy plover survey, unpubl. data.

# Chapter 5 REPORT PREPARATION

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650-327-0429

# SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Special Event Permits, when approved, shall be issued subject to the following provisions:

- 1. All activities and arrangements for advance preparations within the above named unit, shall be at the direction of the District Superintendent or authorized representative.
- 2. Rules and regulations of the Department of Parks and Recreation unless specifically exempted or otherwise noted shall be observed by the permittee, employees, agents, or contractors.
- 3. The only special activities granted permittee herein are those which are listed in writing on the permit.
- 4. No structures or sets may be constructed unless specifically provided for and described in writing, no digging or excavation is permitted, and no shrubbery or trees are to be cut, trimmed or injured. No additions, alterations, modification, or decorations may be affixed to any Department of Parks and Recreation facility without specific written approval of the District Superintendent.
- 5, Fires will not be permitted except upon the specific written approval of the District Superintendent and under specific direction.
- 6. Vehicles under the authority of the permittee will be parked in areas designated by the District Superintendent.
- 7. Permittee will control all traffic and vehicles associated with the event as directed by the District Superintendent.
- 8. Permittee will maintain the permitted area in a clean and sanitary condition and will restore the area to the condition in which it was received to the satisfaction of the State.
- 9. Permittee will repair or be billed at the discretion of the State any and all damage to the park unit or any State property which was a result of permittee's activities. State will be the sole judge of the extent of damage and the extent of repairs required to remedy the damage. All repairs will be performed to the satisfaction of the State.
- 10. The State may require at its discretion, the following special conditions:
  - a) Fire control measures and additional fire fighting equipment to be furnished by permittee as

required by the District Superintendent.

- b) First-aid service to be supplied by permittee, including ambulance service, doctors or nurses.
- c) Additional police protection and/or traffic control personnel. Policing of the event will be provided by permittee and at own expense.
- d)Parking arrangements required for permittee's operating personnel.
- e) Additional sanitary facilities as required by the District Superintendent. Sanitary facilities over and above those furnished by State may be provided by permittee and at own expense.

The permittee will be charged a fee based on the number of hours and job classification of State personnel required to meet any special condition.

All special conditions and associated fees will be listed on the permit.

- 11. Unless otherwise specified on the Special Event Permit, the State agrees to provide the following services, if available or appropriate.
  - a) Maintain public restrooms.
  - b) Provide fresh water.
  - c) Provide electricity.
  - d) Provide garbage cans and remove refuse.
  - e)Clean all areas prior to occupancy by permittee.
- 12. The interest of permittee created by this agreement may be subject to property taxation. Permittee agrees to pay any possessory interest tax or any other tax levied on such interest and to indemnify the State from any damage or loss arising, by reason of such tax or Revenue Taxation Code Section 107.6.
- 13. Permittee may be charged a permit fee in addition to normal park fees, based on costs incurred by the State, size and scope of the event, and prevailing fees for commercial facilities in the locality.
- 14. Depending on circumstances and probability of occurrence, permittee may be charged a damage deposit as determined by the District Superintendent. Costs for damage repair and any fines or penalties for noncompliance with permit conditions will be deducted from this deposit, The District Superintendent shall determine if all or only a portion of the deposit is refundable.
- 15. The District Superintendent may terminate without prior notice any special event activity when it is necessary for the safety and enjoyment of the public for the protection of resources, or for violation of any rules or regulations of the Department of Parks and Recreation or conditions of this permit. In addition, any Special Event Permit may be cancelled without notice in the event of disaster or

unforeseen emergency.

- 16. It is an express condition of this permit that the State, its officers, agents and employees shall be free from any and all liabilities and claims for damages and/or suit for or by reason of any death of or injury or injuries to any person or persons or damages to property of any kind whatsoever, whether the person or property of permittee. its agents or employees, or third persons, from any cause or causes whatsoever while in or upon said premises or any part thereof during the term of this permit or occasioned by any occupancy or use of said premises or any activity carried on by permittee in connection therewith; and permittee hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and to save harmless the State, its officers, agents and employees from all liabilities charges, expenses (including counsel fees) and costs on account of or by reason of any such deaths, injury, liabilities, claims, suits, or losses however occurring or damage growing out of same.
- 17. For events having greater potential hazard or liability to the State than is incurred through typical daily park activities, permittee will be required to provide the District Superintendent with a certificate of insurance with required endorsements as proof of liability insurance coverage. The policy will cover the period of the permit and will be in an amount no less than one of the following as determined by the District Superintendent:
  - Public Liability \$300,000 each person, \$500,000 each occurrence. Property Damage Liability and Products Damage Liability \$200,000; OR
  - Combined single limit (CSL) \$500,000 per occurrence; OR
  - Combined single limit (CSL) \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

Insurance policies shall be underwritten to the satisfaction of the State and shall contain the following special endorsement:

State of California, its officers, employees, and servants are included as additional insured but only insofar as operations under this contract or permit are concerned;

The insurer will not cancel or reduce the insured's coverage during the period that this permit is in effect or without 30 days prior written notice, whichever is shorter, to State.

This cancellation provision shall not be construed in derogation of the duty of the permittee to furnish insurance during the entire term of the permit.

 Contacts relating to the insurance policy and payment of fee and in regard to the permit generally may be made through the District Superintendent. DPR 246

# **APPENDIX B** 2008 NESTING SEASON MANAGEMENT PLAN TO AVOID TAKE OF THE CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN AND WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER AT ODSVRA, FEBRUARY 2008

### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

On March 21, 2001 the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Oceano Dunes District State Vehicular Recreation Area's (ODSVRA) incidental take authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act expired. The incidental take authorization with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) was not renewed. The ACOE determined that the activity being conducted at the ODSVRA was no longer under ACOE jurisdiction. Therefore ODSVRA lost the federal nexus needed to renew the section 7 permit.

The biological opinion of the section 7 permit had authorized incidental take of two-federally listed species: the California least tern (Sterna antillarum browni) (LETE) and the Western snowy plover (Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus) (SNPL). Both birds have documented nesting and foraging habitat at ODSVRA. The Biological and Conference Opinion for the Section 7 (dated January 25, 1996) provides a list of rules governing the recreational activities at the ODSVRA; program elements of a SNPL and LETE monitoring program; reasonable and prudent measures necessary and appropriate to minimize incidental take; and additional terms and conditions to implement the reasonable and prudent measures.

ODSVRA has been diligently implementing the terms of the biological opinion since its issuance. As anticipated by the biological opinion, some incidental take of SNPL and LETE has taken place, however measures undertaken at ODSVRA have resulted in the overall protection of the bird populations within park boundaries, which has contributed to the overall recovery of both SNPL and LETE at the ODSVRA.

The absence of ACOE jurisdiction has left ODSVRA without incidental take authorization. ODSVRA / DPR has met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to address the situation and to determine the best course of action to resolve conflicts between listed species and ongoing off highway vehicle (OHV) recreation. At present DPR believes that it can continue to operate the SVRA and provide protection (attempting no take) of the listed species through the implementation of various protections, monitoring, and management measures as described below.

The measures following are intended to be carried out throughout the 2008 SNPL and LETE nesting season. A subset of these will also be used after the nesting season to assure that SNPL and LETE are afforded protection during the non-nesting season.

Measures to be implemented during the non-nesting season (October 1 through February 28) will consist of:

- Weekly monitoring for location of SNPL within the ODSVRA
- Continued enforcement of dog leash laws
- Continued enforcement of the posted 15 MPH vehicle speed limits on the beach.

ODSVRA / DPR have contracted with Thomas Reid and Associates to develop a Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). In the absence of the HCP and to continue operations under the "no-take" scenario; ODSVRA has been working closely with the USFWS, and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to develop yearly management plans for the LETE and SNPL. ODSVRA meets with USFWS and DFG prior to the start of each nesting season to map out distinctive measures for this management plan.

## PROTECTION MEASURES AND MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS

Specific protection measures and prescribed management protocols for implementation by DPR as contained within US Fish and Wildlife Service biological opinion (1-8-95-F/C- 17) prepared under Section 7 consultation with the US Army Corns of Engineers for the issuance of Regional General Permit No.42 (Corps of Engineers File No.95-50035-TAW), dated January 25, 1996; FWS permit No. PRT 815214; FWS "Exclosure Protocols For Snowy Plover Nests ", dated January, 1994; and California Department of Fish and Game letter concerning DPR management protocols for the avoidance of take of LETE within ODSVRA, dated May 8, 2001, and additional measures added in 2002, 2003 and 2006 are incorporated by reference and are components of this plan. The following detail describes modifications, changes, or additions to the management protocols contained in the above referenced documents. Additional measures listed are derived from ODSVRA monitoring of the prior nesting season. These measures are listed as recommendations in the annual CDPR report written in consultation with the Point Reves Bird Observatory (PRBO). ODSVRA / DPR oversee the SNPL and LETE program using data collected by staff and consultants. Through these consultations and data collection ODSVRA reviews all recommendations and implements what is reasonable and sound given all issues. ODSVRA continues to implement management actions that will ensure the highest extent of protection to both the SNPL and LETE. ODSVRA is responsible for the management of these two species within its boundaries. All measures will be operational and in place by March 1, 2008, unless otherwise noted.

#### ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

- The management measures and protocols contained in this proposal represent the best management practices at this time. However, adaptive management practices may be employed in the protection efforts for SNPL and LETE during the course of the 2008 nesting season. Adaptive management will be utilized to provide management flexibility to best afford protection for these species. Program adaptations causing initiation of changes of these proposed management actions could result from the following:
- Observations and data collected by ODSVRA resource management staff, that monitor SNPL and LETE, might indicate protocols, which are proposed herein as ineffective.
- USFWS or DFG may indicate more recent findings on species management.
- Recognition and response to currently unforeseen threats to the species, or other factors.

# ROLE OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

United States Fish and Wildlife Service: USFWS staff is available to provide quick and timely responses to informational requests by DPR on aspects of the plan that need immediate action.

During the course of the 2008 nesting season, the USFWS may recommend protocol alterations or modifications for the management and protection of SNPL and LETE. USFWS agrees to consult with DPR to coordinate and gain concurrence on any new management protocol changes that may affect SNPL and LETE.

California Department of Fish and Game: DFG may recommend protocol alterations or modifications for the management and protection of LETE during the course of the 2008 LETE nesting season. USFWS and DPR have agreed to consult with DFG on any modifications suggested or required by DFG.

# **EXCLOSURES FOR SNPL AND LETE**

 The following seasonal exclosures totaling approximately 300 acres will be maintained throughout the 2008 SNPL and LETE nesting season:

## Arroyo Grande Creek

Post 1.5 Area Exclosure Posted and signed. Will be fenced if a nest is established. No successful plover nesting in 2001 and no attempts in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007 and (1) successful LETE nest in 2005. ODSVRA staff will monitor area frequently. If a nest is found in this area a 50- meter single nest exclosure will be erected.

Southern Exclosure 250 acres. 2x4 no-climb fencing, second layer of predator fencing, and posted.

Oso Flaco Natural Area 1-mile stretch of fore dunes closed by 2x4 no-climb and a second layer of predator fencing south of the camping/riding area and symbolic fence and sign postings, approximately 62 acres.

## **EXCLOSURES for SNPL and LETE**

Additional exclosures will be erected and maintained based upon SNPL nesting activities as described below.

- The size of individual SNPL/ LETE exclosures will be constructed with a 50-meter diameter. Fencing material will consist of 2x4 inch galvanized wire mesh fence fabric, steel "t" posts every 15 feet and intermediate line posts as needed.
- When individual SNPL/ LETE nests are established outside of the existing seasonal exclosures, within the riding area, are located within 200 meters of the established seasonal exclosure, fencing will be erected to enlarge the seasonal exclosure so as to encompass the nest site. Fencing so erected will be placed a

minimum distance of 50 meters away from the nest site. Fencing will be extended westerly to the surf line if evaluation by ODSVRA staff and/or USFWS/DFG determine SNPL / LETE chick travel corridor needs require such an action, thereby affording additional protection to SNPL.

- When two or more nests sites are located within 200 meters of each other, and are 200 meters or more away from the seasonal exclosure they will be encompassed into a new large seasonal exclosure. Seasonal exclosures so erected will include fencing that extends to the surf line if chick travel corridors establish that need, so as to provide a secure travel corridor for foraging activity for SNPL chicks. Fencing for such new seasonal exclosures will maintain a minimum distance of 50 meters from nest sites.
- If a single SNPL / LETE nest is established further than 200 meters from a seasonal exclosure with no other nest(s) located within 200 meters, ODSVRA will erect a single nest exclosure fence as described above, If feasible a westerly travel corridor may be erected to provide safe foraging for chicks.
- The bottom edge of wire mesh fencing will be buried 6—8 inches deep at installation of all exclosures to prevent or discourage predator access inside the exclosure.
- The use of twine grid work across the top of individual exclosures will be discontinued, as the increased diameter of individual exclosures makes this construction detail impractical, and the increased distance from the fencing to the nest site reduces the risk of avian predation by perching predatory birds.
- If a SNPL/ LETE nest is established within 50 meters of a restroom facility, the following protocols will be implemented:
- Permanent Restroom Buildings will be closed to public use and exclosure fencing will surround and isolate the restroom to prevent public use.
- Chemical toilets will be relocated to a minimum distance of 100 meters from any nest site.
- 10' x 10' nest exclosures, as called for in the ODSVRA predator management

plan, may be utilized if deemed necessary by staff for SNPL nest protection. 2x4 steel no-climb fence will be used and 4x4 nylon mesh netting will be placed on top. Fence will be buried to a depth of 6-8 inches.

 In the event that LETE chicks are observed traveling outside of a single exclosure, the exclosure will be doubled in size. Doubling the setback distance will continue in this fashion if chicks are observed leaving the newly expanded exclosure and so on. DPR will consult with DFG for agreement and approval if the appropriate setback distances can not be achieved as a result of operational needs.

# MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE NON-OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE AREA OF ODSVRA

- SNPL nesting activity occurs within the non-off highway vehicle use area of the ODSVRA in Oso Flaco Lake Area. This area will be monitored regularly during the nesting season. Individual exclosures or symbolic fencing may be erected around nests when in the opinion of the Senior Environmental Scientist and/or monitors the exclosure or symbolic fencing is necessary to ensure the protection of nest sites from human disturbance or predation. Single nest exclosures within the Oso Flaco area will be at minimum 30- foot radius but will not be as large as within the riding area of ODSVRA due to the terrain limitations. Single nest exclosures in Oso Flaco will be erected at the 2 -egg stage of the clutch to help reduce abandonment threat.
- Symbolic fencing will be erected at the terminus end of the boardwalk trail at the beach to direct visitors to the wet sand area of the beach and away from potential nesting and chick rearing areas.
- Signs explaining SNPL natural history and protection measures in effect will be posted for visitor information and education.
- A large seasonal exclosure will be utilized at Oso Flaco, north of the public access boardwalk. It will be constructed of 2x4 no-climb fence buried to a depth of 6-8 inches. Approximate size will be 62 acres.

## MANAGEMENT ACTIONS SPECIFIC TO CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN

- DPR will implement provisions and measures agreed to for LETE management and protection that are contained within a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from DFG to DPR to be developed in consultation for the 2008 nesting season. ODSVRA in consultation with DFG Wildlife Biologists are confident the measures mentioned within this take avoidance document, if faithfully implemented at ODSVRA, will avoid take of this State listed, fully protected species. ODSVRA proposes that these same measures will be adequate to assure USFWS that there will be no take of LETE in the operation of ODSVRA during the 2008 nesting season.
- The footbridge hand railing at Oso Flaco Lake is utilized by LETE for perching after chicks have fledged and when adult birds are teaching fledglings to fish in the lake. The visiting public will be provided with information about the LETE presence and activity at Oso Flaco Lake, and will be provided with guidelines to avoid disturbance of the activities of LETE. If, in the opinion of the Senior Environmental Scientist or monitors, visitor activities are significantly disrupting LETE behavior, the footbridge may be closed to public use, or types of public use on the boardwalk, e.g., fishing, may be temporarily prohibited until the LETE have left the lake area.
- Banding of LETE chicks will be implemented for the fifth season at ODSVRA for 2008. A permitted Master Bander from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory has been contracted to perform this duty.
- One design of tern shelter will be evaluated in the 2008 nesting season. This
  design was tested in 2007 and a sufficient number of tern chicks used the
  shelters to justify a second year of evaluation. DPR will continue to place
  driftwood and native plants throughout the seasonally exclosed area to serve as
  natural shelter.

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION

All first time visitors will be provided with a flyer or pamphlet describing the
natural history of the species, their status under endangered species acts,
recovery efforts in place within the SVRA and a list or description of activities
either prohibited or desired by the public that serve to protect both LETE and
SNPL.

- All first time visitors entering the ODSVRA by vehicle will be provided with a copy of the ODSVRA park brochure that contains information on the federally and state listed status of the SNPL and LETE, and management actions in place to aid in the recovery effort of these species.
- All visitors entering the ODSVRA by vehicle to camp will be offered plastic garbage bags and will be informed they are to haul their trash out of the ODSVRA at the end of their visit. Visitor participation in reducing or eliminating trash within the SVRA will discourage predators from frequenting the visitor use area and thus reduce the likelihood of predation on SNPL and LETE.
- Trash dumpsters will be provided for the deposit of trash bags near the OHV staging area, near Post 2. The location of the trash dumpsters will be changed as necessary to avoid disturbance to any nearby active LETE or SNPL nests.
- Interpretive panels describing the LETE and SNPL population status and threats
  to their survival will be posted at ODSVRA Safety Center located at the entrance
  to Sand Highway, at Oso Flaco Lake and at the Pier Avenue and Grand Avenue
  entrances ramps to the SVRA.
- 7 days a week, 24-hours a day the ODSVRA AM radio station will again be
  utilized for the 2008 nesting season. The radio station will broadcast visitor
  safety, park rules and regulations and information on the SNPL and LETE
  including actions that visitors can take to help assure the survival of the species.
- Visitors entering ODSVRA by vehicle with a dog will be provided with an
  informational handout about the ill effects of unleashed dogs on wildlife.
   Pedestrian visitors with dogs who have not entered the recreation area by
  vehicle will be provided the same pamphlet by ODSVRA staff.
- ODSVRA A.M. radio station will be updated with new measures taken in the 2008 season.

## SNPL AND LETE BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

- During anticipated high visitor use periods as determined by historic visitor attendance records, e.g., Memorial Day Weekend, July 4th weekend, Labor Day weekend, monitoring staff will provide extended hours of monitoring within the off highway vehicle use area of the ODSVRA.
- Monitoring will take place daily for a minimum of 8 hours per day to enable a
  better identification of potential human use related threats to SNPL and LETE
  and to summon law enforcement assistance if needed to prevent or eliminate
  any human use related threats to the species. Monitors will be those individuals
  approved by USFWS for this function.
- Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) has been contracted by DPR to furnish a Master bander for the 2008 SNPL and LETE nesting season. The PRBO bander will be responsible for the banding of all SNPL and LETE chicks, "floating eggs" of SNPL, and if determined necessary, to band SNPL adults. The PRBO bander will be in consultation with and under the direction of the Senior Environmental Scientist assigned to ODSVRA. The PRBO bander will assist in the preparation of a written end of nesting season report for OSVSRA. The banding of newly hatched SNPL / LETE chicks will utilize protocols approved by USFWS and DFG. PRBO bander will report all banding data and records per guidelines established by USFWS and PRBO.
- During holiday periods, one (1) monitor will be assigned the specific duty during daylight and evening hours of ensuring that no unauthorized entry is made into the north end of the large southern seasonal exclosure.
- Monitors will select and track SNPL / LETE chicks/broods hatched from any area within the riding area (single nest exclosures) that is not within a seasonal exclosure to determine travel routes and travel patterns associated with foraging and exploration. Information gathered by such monitoring will be used during the 2008 nesting season and subsequent nesting seasons to establish additions to or reconfiguration of existing exclosures, to establish the need for fenced travel corridors, or serve to modify other measures to allow better protection for SNPL. Monitors will attempt to follow the broods if and when leaving the single nest exclosures, identify threats to brood movement or safety, obtain assistance as necessary from SVRA patrol staff, and will oversee the erection of signs and/or symbolic fencing to assure brood safety until they reach a non vehicle use area of the SVRA. Should the broods engage in foraging activity in the wrack line near these exclosures, vehicle traffic flow will be diverted or regulated to allow

safe movement of the brood.

- ODSVRA does and will continue to participate in the Region 5 working group for SNPL recovery.
- A predator management plan will be implemented again in the 2008 nesting season as in previous seasons (2002 — 2007) to address predation issues at ODSVRA.

#### MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

- All protocols for maintenance activities and maintenance vehicle movement and routing contained in the biological opinion remain in effect.
- At least one vehicle will be present and available within the SVRA daily from 0800 to 1600 throughout the 2008 nesting season with all tools and equipment necessary to immediately construct nest exclosure(s) for SNPL or LETE when requested by monitoring staff.
- Maintenance staff will carry trash bags in each vehicle and provide trash bags to visitors for the removal of trash and litter from visitor use areas.

#### **ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

- State Park peace officers will aggressively enforce trespass into the nesting
  exclosures, the dog leash laws, the posted 15 MPH beach speed limit, fire work
  violations, kite flying violations and litter violations as part of a focused law
  enforcement action throughout the 2008 nesting season. During periods of
  anticipated high visitor use, additional ranger staff will be dedicated solely to this
  focused law enforcement function so as to eliminate threats to SNPL or LETE
  associated with those visitor activities.
- State Park peace officers will respond to requests by monitors for assistance with SNPL and LETE protection and security. The enforcement of laws affecting

the safety of SNPL and LETE will be the highest non-emergency priority for law enforcement focus and action within the ODSVRA.

- During anticipated high visitor attendance periods, State Park peace officer staff will provide additional enforcement focus on ensuring that the integrity of exclosures is maintained and that no trespass occurs with SNPL or LETE exclosures.
- On weekends State Park Rangers will diligently peruse the Oso Flaco hard fenced and symbolically fenced area for trespass and other violations.
- Sundays through Thursdays, except for holiday periods, a minimum of two (2)
   State Park Ranger/peace officers will be on duty and available from 0700
   through 2000 hrs each day to respond to:
- Requests for assistance by monitors for the protection of SNPL and LETE
- Exclosure trespass violations
- Enforce dog leash laws
- Enforce the posted 15 MPH beach speed limit
- Firework violations
- Kite flying violations
- Litter violations
- During non-holiday weekends (Friday and Saturday), a minimum of two (2) State Park peace officers will be on duty and available from 0600 through 2400 hrs each day to enforce the above mentioned violations
- During major holiday periods State Park peace officers will be on duty 24 hrs/day. From 0700 to 2000 and a minimum of three (3) ranger/peace officers will be on duty at any one time. From 2000 to 0200 a minimum of three (3) ranger/peace officers will be on duty at any one time. From 0200 to 0700 two (2) ranger/peace officers will be on duty. During mid day periods, when visitor attendance is highest, as many as four (4) ranger/peace officers will be on duty. During all shifts ranger/peace officers will be available to enforce the above listed violations.
- During daylight hours on major holiday periods, one (1) State Park peace
  officers will be assigned the primary duty of patrolling the beach, including the
  nest exclosure areas and ensuring that no entry is made into exclosures

established for LETE and SNPL nest site protection.

 On July 4th State Park Visitor Service Staff, or State Park Volunteers will be assigned to the large southern exclosure to help quell the use of fireworks over the area, which could endanger nest success.

#### <u>DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ORDERS</u>

- The District Superintendent of ODSVRA will issue orders:
- Establishing a buffer zone around individual nest exclosures prohibiting the camping, stopping or parking of vehicles within 100 ft of the exclosure perimeter fencing
- Prohibition of kite flying south of the Pier Ave. ramp during the SNPL and LETE nesting season
- Prohibition of fireworks
- No entrance into any signed or closed area within the Oso Flaco Natural Area, and
- No dogs or horses allowed in the Oso Flaco Natural Area.
- Temporary closure of the Oso Flaco Lake footbridge may be made if, in the opinion of the Senior Environmental Scientist and or the biological monitors, human activity at the footbridge is adversely affecting least tern adult or fledgling feeding activities at the lake.

#### DPR 2007 SNPL AND LETE NESTING REPORT

- DPR prepared a report in consultation with The Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) entitled "Nesting of the Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern at Oceano Dunes SVRA in 2007". In the report were several recommendations regarding Monitoring, enhancement of available nesting habitat, enhancement of hatching success, fledging success, and winter survival.
- ODSVRA is prepared to implement the recommended measures of the annual



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